

growing pains points to affections productive of valvular lesions. The same may be said, with slight reservations, of a history of rheumatism where there is no clear account of pain, swelling of the joints, fever, or confinement to bed. The evidence in favor of chorea as an efficient cause of mitral stenosis is strong, and we have found some, though not very striking, evidence in confirmation of the view that chorea and rheumatic fever are both manifestations of the activity of a common cause.

Experiences with Luminal in Epilepsy.—GRINKER (*Jour. Am. Med. Assn.*, 1920, lxxv, 588) found luminal in small doses (1.5 to 2 grains), once or twice daily, capable of arresting the convulsions of epilepsy. Larger doses are seldom required but may be given with safety. Large doses may be administered when beginning treatment, especially after sudden withdrawal of bromide treatment; even in such cases the dose may be gradually reduced to 1.5 to 2 grains. Luminal does not appear to be habit-forming and no harmful effects have been observed from its long-continued administration. Patients receiving average doses of luminal do not show the peculiar mental torpor of those taking bromides.

The Physiological Action of Fumes of Iodin.—LUCKHARDT, KOCH, SCHROEDER and WEILAND (*Jour. Pharm. Exp. Therap.*, 1920, xv, 1). Iodin deposited on the skin in the form of fumes is absorbed and appears in the urine of both man and dogs. In dogs the iodine content of the thyroid was found to be greatly increased, the increase being accompanied by a corresponding change in the histological features of the gland. The same was true when the iodine was inhaled. The inhalation of iodine fumes causes respiratory disturbances consequent on the irritant action of the fumes; large amounts lead to the death of the animal within twenty-four hours from acute and rapidly developing pulmonary edema. The edema supervenes more rapidly in animals having respiratory disease than in normal dogs. The authors believe that the fumes of iodine should never be inhaled for therapeutic purposes and in persons with pulmonary disease such administration is absolutely contra-indicated.

The Stability of Digitalis-leaf Extracts. The Infusion (Second Paper).—POMEROY and WEYL (*Am. Jour. Pharm.*, 1920, xcii, 394). A comparison of the relative activity of digitalis infusions and tinctures of equal concentration shows the infusion to be slightly less active. Placing a 20 per cent. limit on deterioration, the authors conclude that the infusions should be discarded in from three to five days' time; at lower temperatures the time limit may be extended to from six to seven days. In addition to the instability of the infusion itself, a wide variation in the strength of various samples of leaves was found. The addition of alcohol did not add to the stability of the infusion.

Botulism from Canned Ripe Olives.—EMERSON and COLLINS (*Jour. Clin. and Lab. Med.*, 1920, v, 559). Within the last six months there have been at least five small outbreaks of botulism in this country, due to the eating of canned ripe olives. Four of the five outbreaks were due to *B. botulinus* of the Boise Type (Type A). While Dickson's

recent work has definitely demonstrated the protective value of antitoxin when administered soon after the toxin, it must be remembered that antitoxin for one type is specific for that type alone. The authors recommend adequate government supervision of the plants (including fish packing and canning plants) for protection against *B. botulinus* contamination.

Gastric Response to Foods. X. The Psychic Secretion of Gastric Juice in Normal Men.—MILLER, BERGEIM, REHFUSS and HAWK (*Am. Jour. Physiol.*, May, 1920). The sight, taste and smell of appetizing food was found to give rise to a distinct secretion of gastric juice in normal men. Evil odors depressed secretion. Nourishing foods unpleasantly prepared and served sometimes caused a slight delay in evacuation time but none in acid response. The ultimate utilization of the protein of a diet prepared in a most unpalatable manner was not found to be appreciably less than that of the same diet served under the best conditions. Anxiety and mental strain markedly delayed gastric digestion.

Gastric Response to Foods. XI. The Influence of Tea, Coffee and Cocoa upon Digestion.—Water, tea and coffee, in 1 liter amounts, were practically without effect on the evacuation time of a uniform mixed meal; the rise of the level of intragastric acidity was somewhat delayed, as compared with the basal meal alone. Cocoa, in 1 liter amounts, distinctly delayed the evacuation time and the development of intragastric acidity. Tea and coffee in these amounts caused acceleration of the heart-rate, vasomotor relaxation, tremors, etc. Urine secretion after tea or coffee ingestion varied from 550 to 860 c.c.; after cocoa, from 125 to 370 c.c.

Vitamine Studies. V. The Antiscorbutic Properties of Raw Beef.—DUTCHER, PEARSON and BIEST (*Jour. Biol. Chem.*, 1920, xlii, 301). Water extracts of raw, lean beef did not delay the onset of scurvy or increase the length of life of guinea-pigs fed on a "scorbutic" diet. Orange juice prevented scurvy, whether meat extract was fed or not. From the excellent condition of the animals on the orange-juice beef extract diet, the authors conclude that the scurvy was due rather to the absence of the antiscorbutic vitamine than to any deleterious property of the beef extract.

PEDIATRICS

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Sino-Atrial Heart Block in a Child.—BROWN (*Arch. Int. Med.*, September, 1919) discusses the case of a boy aged eleven years, in whom there was found the arrhythmia, which is usually called sino-auricular